Venue:

Community and School

Goal:

Collaborate with Community
Based Programs and Prevent
Initiation of Tobacco Use

Activity:

S6.01 School/Community
Communication System, S6.03
Shared Program Resources,
and C2.08 Support
Comprehensive School
Policies and Programs

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	Chelan	Doug
Population (Census 2000):	66,616	32,6
Adult Cigarette Smoking		

Prevalence (BRFSS/ATS 2003): 20 percent 19 percent

• Number of Students
(OSPI 2003): 12,777 6,853

• Eighth Grade Cigarette Smoking Prevalence (HYS 2002):

7 percent 10 percent

Washington State Department of Health
Tobacco Prevention & Control Program

PUBLIC HEALTH
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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

County and Educational Service District Partnering - Shared Tobacco Coordinator Position

Project Description

North Central Educational Service District Safe & Civil Schools and TOGETHER! for Drug Free Youth of Chelan and Douglas counties created a shared position to support their school and community tobacco prevention activities.



Inputs

Rationale

- •North Central Educational Service District Safe & Civil Schools provides prevention services and staff to local school districts. TOGETHER! for Drug Free Youth is a private, non-profit. Both provide funding and volunteer support to school and community prevention activities. Both have programs and staff working together on tobacco prevention with the same populations so creating a shared position was a logical step.
- Designating a specific position to focus on partnered projects, services, and resources would avoid duplication, facilitate communication flow, and ensure that targeted needs were being addressed in the two-county region.
- Past partnerships between North Central Educational Service District Safe & Civil Schools, TOGETHER!, and Chelan-Douglas Health District had been successful.
- •Research out of the University of Washington supports community-wide prevention partnering with education to strengthen prevention programs. Healthy Youth Survey results indicated a need for strengthening tobacco prevention in Chelan and Douglas counties.

Target Audiences

- Primary: Contractors, community representatives, school staff, and community mobilization coalition members
- Secondary: Prevention professionals and anyone interested in community-wide, comprehensive tobacco prevention

Resources

Staff

- Administrative staff planned and set up a new, full-time, shared position.
- State Tobacco Prevention and Control Program funding from the North Central Educational Service District Safe & Civil Schools and TOGETHER!

Activities

- 1. The two agencies recognized the potential for a successful partnership and met to explore the possibility. They conferred with the state Department of Health about the logistics and funding, and negotiated shared expenses and logistics (i.e. supervision, housing the position).
- 2. Both agencies met to identify needs and goals and co-developed a job description. One full-time tobacco coordinator position was created. The full-time position is supported jointly by the two agencies. The position is a half-time employee of the Educational Service District and a half-time employee of TOGETHER! The salary is paid separately by each agency for their share.
- 3. The Educational Service District's Human Resources advertised the position and processed applications. Interviews were held at TOGETHER!'s office and conducted jointly by both agency supervisors. The hiring decision was mutual.
- 4. An experienced prevention professional was hired to fill the position. The position is housed in the TOGETHER! office.

 TOGETHER! was responsible for the day-to-day, on-the-job training.

Outputs

1. Coordination:

- The tobacco coordinator and both agency supervisors meet monthly about the partnership and more frequently for specific projects. The coordinator participates in monthly tobacco coalition meetings and e-mails updates twice monthly to the Educational Service District supervisor.
- 2. Support for work with youth:
- The position increased support and resources for prevention specialists and teachers in schools by helping with the implementation of events and curriculums.
- The position infused more tobacco prevention into other drugfree youth activities and increased community outreach and awareness around tobacco prevention and control.
- The position strengthened the Teens Against Tobacco Use (T.A.T.U.) program by dedicating a person to provide resources and support to each advisor of the seven T.A.T.U. teams in Chelan-Douglas counties. The tobacco coordinator developed a job description and contract for T.A.T.U. advisors, and is developing a form to ensure quality and consistency in reporting T.A.T.U. activities.
- The position will lead trainings on tobacco prevention, youth advocacy, and media awareness for the tobacco track at the Student Leadership Conference, an annual conference serving primarily migrant and low-income students that is sponsored by TOGETHER!
- The tobacco coordinator provides three-dimensional interactive displays and distributes materials at special events in the community and in schools. The coordinator refers names of students using tobacco to the Educational Service District's prevention specialists for follow-up.

Lessons Learned

- A workable arrangement had to be made where two employers could share one employee and still comply with the state's FTE requirements.
- It is critical to establish methods for communicating, such as regularly scheduled, three-way meetings and telephone conferences and forwarding and copying pertinent e-mails. It is also necessary to clarify responsibilities, such as which agency is responsible for which needs (i.e. TOGETHER provides desk and cell phone; Educational Service District provides computer).
- Partnering requires planning to align activities outlined in the partnering agencies' work plans. Build in extra time for orientation and planning for a new position instead of having the new employee jump right in and start working.
- The Educational Service District and TOGETHER! will continue to partner on various prevention projects in the Chelan-Douglas community, including classroom presentations, parenting classes, and community events. Ongoing activities include working with school districts, government agencies, medical facilities, the faith community, law enforcement, the business community, and our local substance abuse treatment center. We would definitely recommend that others try this approach if it makes sense for them.

